

Parks Advisory Committee
March 24, 2010
6:30 PM
Minutes

Call to order: Mr. Deeds called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

Roll Call: Ms. Bolin, Ms. Boumis, Mr. Donahue, Mr. Peoples, Mayor Ebert,
Dr. Bender and Mr. Deeds

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Bender moved to approve the minutes from the November 18th, 2009; seconded by Ms. Boumis. Motion passed with all ayes.

Items for Discussion

09-12 Parks Plan Presentation

Mr. Strayer presented a power point presentation that showed the existing inventory of parks and the future plans the community had for those parks, the survey results and what they mean and finally, a discussion about short-term and long-term goals. See attached power-point. Pfeifer Park, Hanners Park, Guiler Park, Stradley Park, Frances Steube Community Center, Walnut Creek Park, Westchester Park and James H. Kelley Preserve were discussed.

The most important goal, according to the survey results, was building an indoor recreation facility. This fact is at odds with the current approved plans for the parks. The next most popular answer for the survey was that the community wanted to buy land for park expansion, but what does that entail? Do the plans for Hanners, Westchester and Walnut Creek parks fit into that? Passive recreation parks were discussed as well.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the current parks and improvements that could be made. It was decided that Pfeifer Park should be put on the “long-term” list and eventually sent in front of Safety or Service Committee to see if a Homeowner’s Association could be started.

Hanners Park restrooms, as well as parking improvements, should be high on the list of priorities, especially now that there is the bike path and the skate park. Play equipment for the little ones while siblings are on the fields is another request that came from the survey. Discussion ensued. This was labeled as “short term goal” and could change if the Parks and Rec. district gets their levy.

Guiler Park needs some plant screening. The basketball courts will eventually go into Walnut Creek Park and then the Guiler Park courts could be more controlled. More shade trees are needed near the playground equipment. Alternate places for the basketball court were discussed.

Stradley Park – Uses for the green space behind Stradley and the mural were discussed. No long term or short term goals are apparent for this space.

Frances Steube Community Center – Over the last several years, many improvements have been made, including a new floor, access management, site drainage (rain garden), bathrooms have been made handicapped accessible, lighting replaced, new stove, freezer and ice machine. Mayor Ebert stated this should just continue to be maintained until a new facility can be built. Discussion ensued. Short term goals would be to install a generator and long term would be to find a larger facility.

Walnut Creek Park - Nature works funding was discussed, as well as the possibility of having the CWJRD eventually own the property and maintain it. A bridge to get into Walnut Creek Park from the school property would be a good asset and access points were discussed.

Westchester Park- Shelter houses and parking lot are in the approved plan. The nature path has been laid out and will go north through the woods. Fitness stations may be incorporated along the path. Discussion of the possibility of adding tennis courts or using the old bus compound ensued. It was decided that the tennis courts need to be a separate goal by itself where another group can pull together the necessary information and help in funding. The shelter houses, playground equipment and nature path will be under the short term goals.

James H. Kelley Preserve – Whether there is a need for a gazebo was discussed.

Indoor Recreation Facility – Mr. Strayer believes this will be a long-term goal and will need a committee put in place to research options outside complete funding by the Village. Discussion ensued regarding what type of facility would be best.

The pathway plan will be ongoing. Safe Routes to School and the bike path were discussed.

Boekhoff Park - Clean Ohio funds have been applied for in the past and we will continue to apply. This will stay on the short-term list as long as we can find funds to acquire for it.

Canal Point Park – Long term build out; maybe put a nature trail and shelter house.

Howe Pond Park – add benches and maybe fishing areas.

Other Business:

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28th at 6:30pm.

Ms. Boumis moved to adjourn this meeting of the Parks Advisory Committee and was seconded by Mr. Donahue. Motion passed with all ayes

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm